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ing under the suggestion of the older and stronger mind. Not having intelligence enough to resist, he does as he is told. This illustrates the power of suggestion or influence where a feeble-minded person is concerned.

Both boys had succeeded fairly well in the fifth grade of public school work, but failed absolutely and entirely to be able to do sixth grade work. The Binet examination agreed entirely with this school record.

(Abstract of paper presented by Dr. H. H. Goddard of Vineland, N. J., before the American Psychological Association in Philadelphia, Dec. 31, 1914.)

**The Value of Anthropometric Measurements in the Diagnosis of Feeble-Mindedness.**—Goddard and Mead have demonstrated that the feeble-minded of all grades are below normal in height and weight, with greater abnormality in the lower grades than in the higher. The present study is an analysis by exact mental ages of psycho-physical measurements (right grip, left grip, vital capacity), as well as physical (standing height, sitting height, weight), based on data from 490 feeble-minded boys and 185 girls of all ages and grades. The analysis by mental age is made possible by comparison of the data with Smedley's percentile tables, thus eliminating chronological age by use of age-percentiles. These percentiles are averaged for each measurement for the averages of the physical measurements, the psycho-physical, the total and the excess of physical over psycho-physical. From these computations definite positive correlations are found between mental age and all measurements. The specific character of the anthropometric "curve" is typical, and has a highly diagnostic value, the slope in particular being very highly correlated with mental defect of all degrees. Specific relationships between the several measurements and for the sexes are apparent; boys are more variable than girls, psycho-physical measurements are more variable than physical; no relation is established between variability and degree of defect. Psycho-physical measurements are much more below normal than physical, and more highly correlated with mental age. Boys are more below normal than girls in all respects except vital capacity. Weight shows the least retardation and vital capacity the most. Sitting height is more abnormal than standing and right grip more than left. The measurements hold their diagnostic value for a special group of feeble-minded cases which did not show complete feeble-mindedness when first examined, as well as for a group of normal subjects.

The correlation between measurements and mental age, by sexes, are:

Sex.	Stand.		Sit.	Wt.	Rt.	Lt.	Vit.	Psycho-	
	Ht.	Ht.						Phys.	Tot.
Boys .....	30	.39	.38	.58	.60	.42	.62	.68	.60
Girls .....	41	.36	.45	.57	.46	.49	.48	.58	.56

In no case except weight for girls do as many as one-fourth of the cases reach the normal average in any of the measurements.

Without exception the individual "curves" for all girls slope downward, and for boys only two per cent fail to slope downward, and in half of these two per cent the physical average is very far below normal.—Abstract of paper by E. A. Doll of Vineland, N. J. Presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association in Philadelphia, Dec. 31, 1914.

#### COURTS—LAWS.

**To Regulate the Pardoning and Parole of Prisoners (House Bill 1313, Massachusetts).**—*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*

*in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. The parole boards and advisory board of pardons of Massachusetts shall, after the passage of this act, consist of three justices of the courts of the commonwealth, one of whom shall be a justice of the superior court, who shall be the chairman, and two associate justices of the police, municipal, or district courts of the commonwealth, to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the superior court, and any member of said board by the chief justice, and hold office at his pleasure.

SECTION 2. This board shall hold monthly meetings at the state prison, and at each of the two reformatories, to consider the applications for pardons that may be referred to it by the governor, and the parole of such prisoners as may be eligible. They shall receive such compensation, in addition to their regular salaries, as may be provided by the general court, and shall also be reimbursed for their necessary traveling expenses.

SECTION 3. This board is authorized to expend for clerical work a sum not exceeding twenty-five hundred dollars annually.

SECTION 4. The reports upon pardons shall be made directly to his excellency the governor. In case a parole is voted to a prisoner, the prison commissioners shall be notified who will issue the permit of release when home and work conditions are found to be satisfactory. The after care of such paroled prisoners shall be the duty of the prison commissioners.

SECTION 5. Chapter eight hundred and twenty-nine of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and thirteen is hereby repealed.

JOSEPH MATTHEW SULLIVAN, Boston, Massachusetts.

**A Bill to Provide for the Care and Detention of Feeble-Minded in Illinois.**— Many critical social conditions now face the people of Illinois, but of these perhaps none contribute more to the poverty, dependency, crime and vice of today and to the degeneracy of tomorrow than does the presence in our community of thousands of hopelessly irresponsible feeble-minded persons.

The teachers in our schools fail absolutely in the training of numbers of these pupils; the secret of their failure lies in the fact that these children are uneducable, that they are feeble minded. The social workers in our cities fail absolutely in their effort to re-establish many families, and this in spite of continued and substantial assistance and personal endeavor; the secret of their failure lies in the fact that the heads of these families are uneducable; that they are feeble-minded. The judges in our criminal courts are coming to realize the futility of striving to improve or even to intimidate by repeated punishments a large number of criminals; the secret of this failure with these repeaters lies again in the fact that they are uneducable; that they are feeble-minded.

The effort to train the feeble-minded person, either as a child or as an adult, for a place of individual responsibility in life, is hopeless; it is an attempt to do the impossible. Such persons, left to their own resources in the community are tossed from slum to almshouse, to reformatory and to prison. Moreover, they leave in their wake numerous progeny which perpetuate their helpless kind; for the feeble-minded produce many children and feeble-mindedness has, all too surely, been proved hereditary.

It is the plain duty of society to protect these helpless persons, and to prevent as far as possible, their feeble-minded legacy to the next generation. Both of these ends may be accomplished by providing care for the feeble-